





## Clinton will have to turn attention to Middle East

By Ruth Simai  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Until now, the midwest has been more on Bill Clinton's mind than the Middle East.

But the president-elect will have to turn to that troubled region if for no other reason than the Arab-Israeli peace talks taking place at the State Department in Washington.

Consistent of the fragility of the peace process launched by the Bush administration one year ago, Mr. Clinton made a point after his election of promising continuity in U.S. Middle East policy.

But beyond that broad brush stroke, campaign advisers say, little has been filled in.

Arabs and Israelis, resuming their talks Monday after a week's break for the elections, are eagerly waiting for a signal — any signal — from the Clinton transition team.

The need to maintain the momentum of the talks during the transition appears to be of concern to the Bush and Clinton camps.

It was the subject of a lengthy meeting Thursday between Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Dennis Ross, James Baker's top policy aide at the State Department who moved with him to the White House last August to help Mr. Bush's reelection efforts. Mr. Ross is moving back to the State Department for the remainder of the administration, and one of his prime tasks will be to shepherd the peace talks.

Mr. Clinton, in the very early stages of forming his transition team, has not decided who will handle Middle Eastern issues.

But Mr. Ross or other Baker aides might get in touch with Clinton foreign policy advisers to "reach an understanding on their common interest" of keeping the talks moving, suggested Martin Indyk, director of the Washington Institute of Near East Studies and an informal adviser to the

Clinton campaign.

A mandate from the Clinton transition is essential if Mr. Baker or State Department officials are to have any influence with the parties between now and January, experts agree.

The talks owe their birth and infancy to the skilled midwifery and nursing of former Secretary of State Baker. And if they agree on nothing else, Arabs and Israelis and Democrats and Republicans are in accord on one thing — that without an active U.S. role, the negotiations will languish and die.

"If they collapse, you're looking at tremendous instability in that area," said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute and a prominent Democratic activist.

But Mr. Clinton comes to the talks with a handicap. Real or perceived, the president-elect is viewed as a supporter of Israel who does not enjoy the same trust or personal relationships that George Bush has in the Arab World.

Mr. Clinton "needs to enhance his credibility in the Arab World," said William Quandt, a Middle East expert and former aide to President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Bush gained the trust of the Arab World, in part, by daring to openly criticize the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington and by taking on Israel's former government over its support for Jewish settlements on Palestinian lands.

His decision to help Kuwait and defy the powerful leader of Iraq also won Mr. Bush some enduring friendships among moderate Arab leaders such as Saudi King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, has had little if any contact with Arab leaders. He has spoken of the "ties of conscience" that bind Israel and the United States, has stated his opposition to a Palestinian state, and criticized

Syria's President Hafez Al Assad for his "egregious" human rights abuses.

"There's a lot of apprehension about the peace process, based on campaign statements by the candidate and his staff," said Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans who serves as an informal adviser to the Arab delegates at the peace talks.

The future of Jerusalem is one example of the sensitivities and pitfalls Mr. Clinton faces as he gingerly approaches the Middle East issue.

"Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Israel and must remain an undivided city accessible to all," Mr. Clinton said last summer, departing from the Bush administration's position that the status of the city — holy to all three major monotheistic religions — must be determined by negotiations.

Responding to angry reaction from Arab-Americans, Clinton aides hastened to explain that he meant to say that Jerusalem is considered by Israel as its capital — and that the United States does not plan to move its embassy from Tel Aviv where most foreign embassies are located.

"Let's hope that the rhetoric is simply that, and that we'll see a difference between campaigning and governing," said Mr. Jahshan.

Already, the Clinton camp has taken steps to reassure the Arab World.

Mr. Zogby said he met in recent months with Egyptian and Saudi officials. "My message to them was — you have nothing to fear," he said. "There's no indication that Clinton is any less committed to making this (the peace talks) work than Bush."

It's conceivable, said Mr. Quandt, that Mr. Clinton would ask Mr. Carter — who has a loyal following in the Arab World — to relay a similar message to Arab leaders during the transition period.



NUCLEAR CHECK: Dimitri Perrikos of Greece, who heads a team of United Nations nuclear experts, talks to reporters Sunday upon his arrival at the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad. Mr. Perrikos heads the 46th U.N. inspection mission to Iraq under the terms of the 1991 April ceasefire in the Gulf war (APF photo)

## Iraq ready to deal with Clinton

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday it was prepared to deal with U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton and his administration and was looking forward to a new era of relations with Washington.

"The Iraqis will deal with the new administration," Babel, a newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, said in a front-page editorial.

The editorial was signed by the undersecretary of the ministry of culture and information, Noari Al-Marsoumi.

It was the first comment by senior Iraqi officials suggesting Iraq would like to talk to Mr. Clinton.

Iraqi officials have hailed George Bush's election defeat as a victory and President Saddam could not hide his glee. He toured four Iraqi provinces and twice fired his

gun in the air in celebration. Mr. Marsoumi said that with the "demise of Bush" a new political initiative should be launched by Baghdad for "a decisive and effective move to exploit the victory."

He said Iraq should prove to the new U.S. administration that America's "interests can be guaranteed in balance with the interests of the region's peoples."

"It has never been part of Iraq's policy to halt the flow of oil to the Americans," he added.

On Saturday, the government newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah said there was no reason for Mr. Clinton to carry on what it described as Mr. Bush's personal hostility.

"The personal motive of hatred, the desire for revenge... which characterized Bush's dealings with Iraq will no longer be there," it added. The newspaper said the

threat of the use of force against Iraq had receded with Mr. Bush's defeat and will "vanish" in the course of time.

It predicted that the West's "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq to protect rebel Kurds and Shiite dissidents would disappear under Mr. Clinton.

A senior Iraqi diplomat in Europe expressed similar views, voicing hopes for relaxation of the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq once Mr. Bush was out of office.

"A crucial factor will vanish — Bush's hatred for Saddam Hussein," Zaid Aida, Iraq's envoy to the European Community, told French radio.

Mr. Bush has said that stringent U.N. sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, will not be removed while President Saddam remains in power.

## Japan wants to help Iran, but nervous of arms

TOKYO (R) — Japanese fears about Iran's military spending are delaying a resumption of financial aid, foreign ministry officials said Monday.

"We will resume aid to Iran in due course because we cannot make Iran wait (for yen credits) so long and a further delay could hurt bilateral ties," one official said.

In May 1991, then-Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in Tehran that Tokyo was considering offering official development assistance (ODA).

"But Japan must review Iran's military spending trend carefully," the official said. "The fact the global community is concerned about reports of Iran trying to buy arms in large quantities is slowing our procedures for aid."

Japan has suspended yen loans under its ODA programme to Iran since 1976. The United States has recently expressed concern at Tehran's decision to buy a Russian attack submarine.

In 1990, Iran reversed a policy of not borrowing abroad and began to seek foreign loans under the more pragmatic leadership of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. That year Tehran formally asked Tokyo for billions of dollars in low-interest loans to build a dam.

Japan is negotiating with Iran on an unguaranteed loan to help it build a hydro-electric plant on the Karun River in southern Iran, the ministry official said.

He declined comment on the amount under consideration. The private Japanese institute of Middle Eastern economies puts the total cost of the plant at \$1 billion.

Japan spends about \$10 billion on ODA each year.

## Iraq Kurds hold Turkish separatist chief's brother

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — The brother of the leader of Turkey's separatist Kurds is among hundreds of prisoners who have surrendered to Iraqi Kurds and is being held in a remote camp far from the Turkish border.

Several hundred guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) were holding out against Turkish and Iraqi Kurdish forces in mountainous northeast of the town of Amadiya.

But in most places, according to the Iraqi Kurds, fighting has stopped.

Rawsh Shaways, "interior minister" in the Iraqi Kurdish "regional government," told reporters Sunday night that about 1,000 PKK fighters had been moved to Zalah, in the Qala Dizeh area on the Iranian border.

Osman Ocalan, brother of Damascus-based PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, was among the prisoners now at the camp, which was once used by their Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga guerrilla captors.

The Iraqi Kurds have been fighting for over a month to expel PKK fighters from their mountain lairs in northern Iraq to stop them attacking Turkey, Iraqi Kurdistan's only supply route.

Around 20,000 Turkish ground forces crossed the border in mid-October to try to finish off the PKK in Iraq before the onset of winter.

Mr. Shaways said Osman Ocalan and his men had surrendered under the terms of an agreement signed on Oct. 29, committing the PKK to quit the border region, halt military activity in northern Iraq and move to an area designated by the Iraqi Kurds.

Several hundred PKK fighters were still battling Turkish and Iraqi Kurds in the mountains northeast of the town of Amadiya, but fighting had stopped elsewhere, he said.

More than 5,100 people have been killed in Turkey since the

PKK began its struggle for an independent Kurdish state in 1984.

Turkey has previously demanded that the Iraqi Kurds, themselves in revolt against the government in Baghdad, hand over all PKK prisoners. The Iraqi Kurds refused, promising the PKK safe passage to Zalah.

Mr. Shaways said the PKK would not be allowed to conduct political activity in Iraqi Kurdistan and would need written permission to move outside the camp at Zalah.

They would, however, be free to leave Iraqi Kurdistan for any neighbouring country as long as they did not return, he added.

"They can go to Iran if Iran accepts them," he said. "We will be very happy if Iran takes all of them."

Iran and Syria have both promised to cooperate with Turkey against "terrorism" and to keep their borders secure.

Mr. Shaways said the Iraqi Kurdish "government," formed after parliamentary elections in May, planned to set up a force of 6,000 to 8,000 border police to keep the PKK from returning.

Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, he added, would not allow the PKK guerrillas, including 100 women, to slip illegally across the Iranian border, a few kilometres from Zalah.

Mr. Shaways said the PKK prisoners, whom he described as "dangerous refugees," would live in mud huts in Zalah, in a lonely valley surrounded by steep, mine-infested mountains.

They would be disarmed and would have to pay for their own food since supplies were short in Iraqi Kurdistan, which is in the grip of a long-standing undeclared Iraqi trade blockade.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has said his troops will not set up a "security zone" or stay in Iraq indefinitely, but Mr. Shaways said they had not yet begun to withdraw.

## Israel ordered to pay damages to family of killed Palestinian

The Guardian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — In a case which goes to the heart of Israeli policies in the occupied territories, the government has been ordered to pay a total of \$82,000 in damages to the family of an unarmed Palestinian killed by plainclothes soldiers and to another man maimed in the same incident.

A little noticed ruling by the Nazareth district court also broke new ground by ignoring testimony from the state's main witness, an officer of the Shin Bet internal security service. Such secret evidence is normally accepted without question. Parts of the judgment remain classified.

Lawyers and human rights experts said yesterday that the ruling earlier this week was a landmark as it rejected the government's argument that it had no liability for the death and injury because they were acts of war. It restored the government response to the Palestinian uprising or intifada, to the status of a police operation, they said.

The incident took place at the height of the intifada, in August 1988, when plainclothes soldiers driving a civi-

lian van entered the northern West Bank village of Tamun. They fatally shot Saud Bani Odeh, aged 24, and wounded his cousin, Jamal Bani Odeh, aged 31, as they fled. Neither was armed.

It was the first time a Palestinian was killed in an operation by the army's special forces, which have since grown in size and emerged into controversy from their cocoon of state-imposed secrecy.

The Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem, says it has firm evidence of at least nine similar cases in which Palestinians who were neither wanted nor armed were killed by these units. It has records of 86 Palestinians killed by them between 1988 and May 1992. Arab groups have called them "death squads."

Hussein Abu Hussein, the lawyer who represented the Bani Odehs, said yesterday, "Israel has always claimed to be fighting terrorism in the course of the intifada but the court found that the security forces were involved in a policing operation."

Bassam Eid, of B'Tselem, said: "We welcome the court's decision not because of the amount of damages awarded but because it has recognised the innocence of

the victims. This is a precedent on the question of the undercover units. It also casts doubts on the credibility of the Shin Bet."

Judge Gideon Ginat said the government had not proved the soldiers were justified in assuming the two men were dangerous suspects.

The Shin Bet officer, identified only by the Arabic alias "Sama'an," testified that the two Palestinians were active in an organisation hostile to Israel but produced no documentary evidence.

Both were said to be members of the outlawed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, but Jamal Odeh, who was crippled, was detained for six months after the incident and was never interrogated or charged.

The court ordered the government to pay Jamal Bani Odeh \$62,000 and the family of Saud Bani Odeh \$20,000, as well as \$8,000 in court costs.

Five Israeli soldiers were killed and six wounded when they were accidentally shelled during a training exercise yesterday, the army said. The army chief, Ehud Barak, has suspended all firing exercises for five days and appointed a committee of inquiry.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TV VISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Aventures de Joe
18:06	Michael Vailant
18:30	La Famille Roudan
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Golden Girls
21:00	Magret
22:00	News in English
22:30	When the Lion Roars
PRAYER TIMES	
04:34	Fajr
05:53	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19	Dhuhr
16:19	Asr
16:45	Maghreb
18:04	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlich, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 608551, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
Church of the Redeemer — Tel. 638256	
WEATHER	
A relatively cold front accompanying a shallow depression centred over Cyprus will affect Jordan as of Tuesday evening. Therefore, clouds will increase gradually and rain is expected to fall in the northern parts of Jordan, extending gradually to the central and	

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	92, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	874467
Amman Municipality	Complaints
Telephone Information	787111
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malha, J. Amman	636140
Malha, J. Amman	644114
Simciani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	991611/5
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/2
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafieh	775111/2
Army, Marja	991611/5
Quessa Alia Hospital	662240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)5200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30	Dhahran (RJ)
08:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	Amman (RJ)
10:45	Mexico, Dallas (RJ)
16:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:55	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Amman (RJ)
08:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:50	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:50	London (RJ)
12:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:00	Aden (RJ)
21:15	Larnaca (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:45	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:00	Jeddah (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:40	Beirut, Paris (AF)
12:15	Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
14:00	Khartoum (SU)
17:45	Doha (AZ)

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bahrain plans consultative council

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's ruler, in remarks published in his country's newspaper, said his country was planning to set up a new consultative council. "We are serious in announcing the setting up of an advisory council," Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa said. "The 30-member council will be announced very soon," the emir said. The emir nor his government have set any date for setting up the council and diplomats said Bahrain appeared to be taking a cautious attitude on how it wanted to go ahead with this. Sheikh Isa made it clear it would not be an elected body, one chosen in 1973 but suspended two years later because of disputes between conservative and leftist deputies. Diplomats expected the body to play an advisory role rather than the legislative powers of its predecessor. Political parties banned in Bahrain but the population has enjoyed greater freedoms since Iraq's eight-year war with Iran ended in 1988. Bahrain's other partners in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council have also begun steps to broaden their powers by setting up some form of assemblies. Kuwait last month set up a new parliament.

### Algeria expels illegal aliens

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has expelled more than 500 immigrants from black African countries, including Niger, the official AFS news agency said Sunday. Police desert border post of Tamanrasset have expelled 108 Malians, 129 illegal aliens from Niger since Oct. 13, the agency said. 265 aliens from Nigeria, Chad, Benin and Gambia had been expelled. Niger has said that about 500 of its nationals deported from its Algerian neighbour and that another 2,000 be on their way. Niger nationals fleeing drought and a uprising by Tuareg separatists battling the governments of Niger have set up refugee camps in southern Algeria. They have been widespread reports of lawlessness in the area and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Belaid last month said measures would be taken to tackle problems caused by cross-border influx.

### Israelis launch rescue for yacht off Su

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli air force helicopters flew over the Red Sea Sunday to rescue people stranded on an Israeli yacht 80 kilometres off the coast of Sudan. The army said the yacht Fantasy, owned by Israeli millionaire Howard Ross, ran aground 800 kilometres south of the Red Sea resort of Eilat. An army statement said the rescuers winched 10 of people on the yacht to safety but the others refused to be taken for reasons that were not immediately clear. It said the heli had to refuel in mid-air on the flight to reach the yacht which international waters. Israel and Sudan do not have diplomatic relations. Among those on board were Israeli, American and French citizens.

### U.N. helps save Texan from Iraqi arrest

KUWAIT (R) — U.N. observers on the Iraq-Kuwait border helped save an American from seizure by four Iraqis on Saturday. U.N. sources said, William Smith, according to the sources, the border working for Environmental Health Research Testing, a Kentucky company which has a contract in Kuwaiti government to clear explosives and other ordnance. English-language newspaper Arab Times said Monday Smith, a 36-year-old Texan, was driving alone on a morning when the four Iraqis blocked the road, boarded the car and demanded he drive them to their commander. Mr. Smith initially complied but then stopped the car, scuffled with them and ran away. U.N. observers happened to be passing and him up, it said. Two of the Iraqis were in military uniforms, at least one had a pistol, it added. The U.N. sources said the took place on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone set up after the 1991 Gulf war and which straddles the Iraqis seized Chad Hall, another American employee of the company, in the same area on Oct. 9. They took him to Iraq but released him the next day.

### Bahrain minister goes to South Africa

MANAMA (R) — Bahraini Development and Industry Minister Youssef Ahmad Shirawi left for South Africa Monday for breaking talks on industry, trade and finance, officials said. Shirawi, leading a high-level delegation, would also discuss setting up of joint ventures with the private sector in Johannesburg. The four-day visit was the first in decades by a Bahraini minister to South Africa, which has been struggling to revive trade in anti-apartheid embargo imposed by, among others, oil-rich countries. South African trade with the Gulf, which it formally lifted its economic sanctions, has until recently conducted mainly through third parties. Trade teams from countries have exchanged visits in the past few months and African bank official said he had established links with 15 institutions in Bahrain's offshore banking centre to finance a South African airline, Flitestar, made its first scheduled flight to the region early last month, landing in Bahrain.

### Kuwait expects news on missing people

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Monday it expected early progress in its attempts to secure the release of some 850 Kuwaitis it says are in Iraqi hands. Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, the man in charge of the Kuwait campaign for the missing people, told Reuters believe that soon we will have good news. "Sheikh Salem said the missing people Sunday with Michel Cagneux, a senior of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Geneva-based organisation which deals with prisoners-of-war victims of occupation. It was his second meeting with Cagneux, the ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East North Africa, since the end of the Iraqi occupation in February 1991. "It was very fruitful. We are very optimistic," he said. ICRC would send a representative to Baghdad to follow a problem from the Iraqi side, he added.

هكذا من الأصل



## More parties call for abandonment of agenda

**Ultimate council** Ayman Al Safadi  
*in Times Staff Reporter*

...in remarks published in the Jordan Times on Oct. 29, says that Jordan and Israel will pursue comprehensive and just peace on the basis of security council resolutions 242 and 338. It says the question of refugees will be dealt with under "international law."

The draft agenda, which was published in the Jordan Times on Oct. 29, says that Jordan and Israel will pursue comprehensive and just peace on the basis of security council resolutions 242 and 338. It says the question of refugees will be dealt with under "international law."

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Saturday condemned the controversial draft agenda and demanded that Jordanian negotiators be held accountable for exceeding their mandate. The Brotherhood deputies said the negotiators deviated from the governments declared principles on Arab-Israeli peace.

Claiming the agenda "bodes ill for our national unity and inter-Arab relations," the Brotherhood, which opposes the peace process on ideological grounds, lashed out at the agenda for failing to explicitly demand an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. It also said the agenda allows for dealing with the refugees problem as an issue of displaced people outside United Nations Security Council resolutions.

## University continues debate on democracy

**Due for yacht** (Petra) — A seminar on democracy in Jordan was held at the University of Jordan on Sunday, Nov. 8, with the participation of the House of Representatives. The seminar was held at the University of Jordan on Sunday, Nov. 8, with the participation of the House of Representatives. The seminar was held at the University of Jordan on Sunday, Nov. 8, with the participation of the House of Representatives.

Deputy Arar, former Lower House Speaker, commented on the performance of the Lower House, saying it carried out its legislative role in a distinct manner. The House has also played its pan-Arab role in a good manner when it revealed the real dimensions of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq, he said.

The Maan Deputy concluded by affirming that the existence of political parties was one of the guarantees of democracy. The seminar, held as part of the university's Student Council cultural week, was attended by acting university President Mohamad Al Muqawwisi and a number of teaching staff members and students.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Security forces crack down on cement fraud

**Development and** (Petra) — Security forces Monday arrested a number of South African truck drivers and others, who were involved in black market trade and financial activities. The persons concerned were selling cement for citizens at prices ranging between JD 70 and JD 80 per tonne, almost double the official selling prices. The official price for each tonne of cement is JD 39. Amman Governor Issa Al Omari said the authorities were concerned with the fraud and will refer to court for trial. Mr. Omari said he was asking all citizens to cooperate with the security forces in this case with the aim to stop manipulation of prices. He pointed out that sanctions and other measures will be taken against such people.

### Trak young women visit nurseries

**and established** (Petra) — Members of the Karak Young Women's Association Monday toured several nurseries in the city of Karak and southern Jordan Valley region. The society members presented gifts to children and attended celebrations at the nurseries to mark the International Child Day.

### Public parks approved for Aqaba

**Monday it expected** (Petra) — The Aqaba Municipal Council approved today the establishment of two public parks in Al Alamiya and Al Bahariya areas. The parks, expected to cost JD 22,000, will start at the beginning of next year.

### Ensur visits Jordan's cement company

**It was his first** (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensur visited Monday the Jordan Cement Factories Company. He met with the Chairman of its board of directors, its general and administrative staff. Mr. Ensur was briefed on the activities of the company in the fields of production and marketing and its present and future plans. Discussion at the meeting also centred on environmental issues and pollution abatement from cement production. The meeting stressed the need to improve the performance of pollution control equipment at the factories. Dr. Ensur and the company's administration agreed that the company would allocate funds for implementing its environmental policies. Dr. Ensur also urged the company to work on meeting the local market's needs of cement and tackle problems resulting from the shortage of the material.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

Following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed place and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah and Mohammed Moharradhi at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Exhibition of handicrafts, traditional costumes, maps, books and historical photos of Jordan at the University of Jordan.
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordan artist Omar Shabwan at Alla Art Gallery.
- Exhibition entitled "Brilliant stories — American narrative jewelry exhibit" at the American centre (open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Exhibition entitled "Melody Ambiance" by Adnan Al Sharif at the Phoenix Art Gallery.

## Post offices opened for King's birthday

**AMMAN (Petra) —** As part of the kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Post and Communications Minister Jamal Al Saraiheh opened Monday new post offices in the areas of Ariha Al Amr, Shiban, Al Zahra and Dumya in Al Qasr District in Karak Governorate. The offices will offer mail, postal savings, communications and other services to citizens in these areas.

Mr. Saraiheh said the ministry has a comprehensive plan to develop telephone services in all regions of the kingdom to provide better services to citizens in all parts of the kingdom.

The minister said in a meeting with heads of local councils and citizens in Al Qasr district that the plan provides for increasing the number of telephone lines in the kingdom.

He said the ministry will soon embark on a comprehensive study on postal fees in the kingdom to serve citizens and the commercial sector.

The heads of the local councils and the citizens briefed Mr. Saraiheh on their needs of services, and offered several lots of land for the establishment of post offices. The minister pledged to establish these offices in the light of the ministry's financial capabilities.

Mr. Saraiheh also visited the ministry's post offices in the areas of Talal, Faqqou, Amraa, Sadaf, Smakiyyeh, Hammoud, and Al Qasr and was briefed on the services they provide. The minister was accompanied on his tour by Karak Governor Radhi Ibrahim and several officials.

## Jordan must brace itself for increase in cancer cases, experts say

**By Peter Salers**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN —** To effectively combat the expected dramatic increase of cancer cases, the government must act now to encourage doctors and technicians to specialise in Oncology (study of tumors), according to Dr. Samir Al Kayed, director of Al Bashir Hospital's Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Department.

Dr. Al Kayed said cancer cases in Jordan "will increase dramatically in the next 20 years" as the effects of industrialisation and a longer life expectancy are realised.

Currently, Al Bashir can meet the needs of most of the cancer patients it sees. The hospital is the main cancer treatment centre in Jordan and treats all types except blood cancer. "Everyone who requires treatment can get it," said Dr. Kayed, adding that cancer treatment is free for Jordanians.

However, financial problems hinder treatment of leukemia, of which some 300 cases are reported a year, according to Dr. Alqam, blood cancer specialist at Jordan University Hospital.

Bone marrow transplants, considered to be relatively easy procedures and the only cure for cancer, have not been performed at the University Hospital for two years because of a "lack of funds," said Dr. Alqam. Each transplant costs around JD 10,000, owing to the expensive anti-biotics required.

Because the Kingdom lacks a central registry to monitor the cancer situation, it is difficult to gather statistics and assess the problem. "The cancer situation in Jordan is complicated," Dr. Kayed said, estimating that his department sees about 70 per cent of the country's cancer patients.

Last year, according to hospital records, Al Bashir's Oncology department treated 1,214 patients. However, only 30 per cent returned for follow-up treatment and check-ups, up from three per cent in 1981. "They come here once and then go home to their own doctors," Dr. Kayed said.

Dr. Kayed explained that a central registry would keep accurate country-wide statistics and keep track of all patients, regardless of where they are treated. He hopes funds to begin such a registry can be obtained soon, perhaps from an international organisation.

Looking ahead, Dr. Kayed sees a "gloomy future" because of a lack of doctors and technicians specialising in Oncology and radiotherapy. Today there are only 10 cancer specialists in the country. He said Oncology is "financially not a profitable career" and called on the government to encourage medical professionals to enter the field by making it financially more rewarding.

According to Dr. Kayed, item 35 of the Nuclear Energy Law, enacted in 1987, stipulates that all doctors and technicians working with radiotherapy receive 30 per cent of their basic salary extra, plus an additional 15 days of vacation a year as compensation for the risk involved. While they still receive the extra vacation time, the bonus salary stopped after 14 months.

For doctors to keep abreast of the latest research and treatment techniques, Dr. Kayed explained, it is "imperative" to spend a month in either the U.S. or Europe each year and to belong to international medical organisations. "It costs a lot, but it also helps a lot," Dr. Kayed said.

Both Dr. Kayed and Dr. Alqam were not certain of how the new Al Amal Cancer Centre, scheduled to be operational by next November, would affect their departments and, ultimately, the kind of treatment the patient receives.

## Jordan makes new proposal to reschedule debts with London Club

**By P.V. Vivekanand**  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

**AMMAN —** Jordan has made a new proposal to the London Club of creditor banks to renew negotiations on rescheduling and reducing the Kingdom's commercial debts, informed sources said Monday.

"Finance Minister Basel Jarrah has forwarded the new proposal but it is too early to discuss the details," said a well-informed source. "The proposal, which aims at unstalling the negotiations, has been made as a sign of Jordan's goodwill and quest to resolve the problem," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

The Jordanian move to renegotiate the commercial banks in negotiations comes despite the relatively comfortable position the Kingdom sees itself in since its stand is supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), banking and diplomatic sources say.

No details of the new proposal was immediately available, but the source indicated that "it represents the position that Jordan adopted in the last meeting with the steering committee (of the London Club) in late September."

In the proposal tabled by Jordan and rejected by the committee in September, the Kingdom sought debt rescheduling and reduction terms along the same lines that the London Club offered to Argentina a few years ago.

Subsequent to the rejection of the proposal, Jordanian officials as well as diplomatic sources dismissed as exaggerated suggestions that the negotiations had collapsed.

"It was an inconclusive session, but it cannot be described as a collapse," said a well-informed Western source. "There is every desire on both sides to reach a fair agreement and efforts are continuing."

Jordan owes the banks grouped under the London Club around \$1.2 billion, including \$120 million in outstanding interest. It is seeking settlement and rescheduling terms similar to those offered to Argentina, which, at one point in time, was one of the most indebted countries. The steering committee argues that Amman wants more than what was offered to Buenos Aires.

The main sticking point in the Jordan-London Club negotiations, said Western and Jordanian sources, was the steering committee's refusal to commit itself to limiting conversion of medium-term debt repayments and interest to long-term debts.

The Kingdom, which is seeking a 50 per cent limit on such conversions, has suggested that part of the other 50 per cent could be bought back by the Kingdom at a discounted rate and part could be converted into investments into Jordan and fixed-time holdings in Jordanian dinars.

"Some of the banks, prominent among them Gulf banks, are insisting that if rescheduling is to be done then it has to be done for the entire amount, including outstanding interest which will be converted as principal," said one of the sources, speaking before the new Jordanian proposal was made.

On the other hand, some of the banks are prone to accepting the Jordanian terms, but none of the major banks, British as well as French, are willing to settle for anything less than full payment on rescheduled terms, said the Western source.

"They might be willing for a discounted sell-back of the debts but their bottom line is much higher than the 40 per cent or so sought by Jordan," added the source.

Some experts argue that in view of the differences of approach among themselves, the creditor banks may not be in a position to continue to project a united negotiating position with Jordan, thus leaving the door open for the Kingdom to reach separate deals with at least some of its creditors.

Such argument is countered by Western analysts. "Over the years, London Club members have stuck together even when the stakes were much higher," said one analyst. "Why should they undermine the institutional unity of the group for a relatively small amount of \$1 billion or \$1.2 billion?"

In theory, Jordan has until Dec. 31, 1992, to reach a conclusive agreement with the London Club, but sources here expected the deadline to be extended by another six months by the IMF.

"The IMF appreciates Jordan's firm commitment to the restructuring programme it has agreed with the fund and supports the Kingdom's position," said one source. "Therefore all chances are that Jordan would be given a further breather until June 1993."

In the meantime, Jordan is "very comfortable" with the Paris Club and is going ahead with finalising bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with individual governments after having reached a broad accord with the group in February this year.

## Driver sentenced to death in UNESCO killing

**By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter**

**AMMAN —** The Amman criminal court has found a Jordanian guilty of pre-meditated murder in the killing of a senior U.N. official in August last year and has sentenced him to death. The verdict now goes for review at the Court of Cassation.

Subhi Yousef Khalil Sukkar, 41, was convicted of gunning down Hamid Kawad, who was serving as the acting regional director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on Aug. 12, 1991.

Legal sources said a plea of insanity entered by the defendant, who was working as a driver for the Amman regional office of UNESCO at the time of the killing, was not accepted by the court following a two-month observation period.

"The doctors who kept him under watch certified that he had an 'explosive' character, but this does not amount to insanity," said lawyer Khalaf Bani Hani, who represented Mr. Sukkar, a father of eight children.

Reports at the time of the murder described Mr. Sukkar as "mentally deranged" and said he was receiving psychiatric help.

The killing took place inside the UNESCO regional office in Amman where Mr. Sukkar had been serving since 1987. According to witnesses, Mr. Sukkar burst into a hall where Mr. Kawad, a Sudanese national, was holding a meeting and shot him once before leaving the room.

But he came back again and shot Dr. Kawad who was only wounded by the first bullet, the witnesses said.

As the assailant turned and was again leaving the room, he came face to face with another (UNESCO) employee and shot him also," according to an eyewitness who also sustained injury by flying bullets.

Mr. Sukkar, witnesses said at that time, was upset over the possibility that he might lose his job with the planned move of the regional office of UNESCO from Amman to Beirut, Lebanon, and apparently decided to take it out on Dr. Kawad, who was also director U.N. regional office for education in the Arab World. The UNESCO regional office moved to Beirut early this year.

He was also reported to have said that Dr. Kawad, who had taken over as acting UNESCO regional director only six months ago, "ignored his repeated requests to know of his rights."

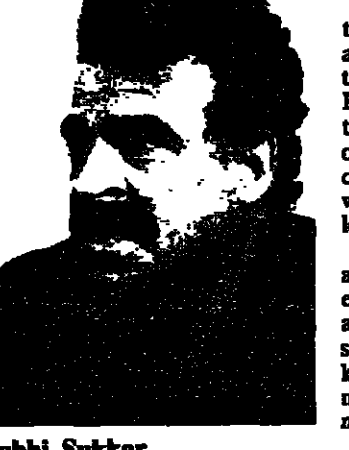
The murder weapon was found in his possession at the time of arrest, police said.

Under Jordanian law, the verdict now goes before the Court of Cassation for a review.

The Court "will study the way the evidence was collected and whether it is sufficient to warrant the sentence as passed by the criminal court," said lawyer Bani Hani.



Hamid Khawad



Subhi Sukkar

## Premier to establish environment committee

**AMMAN (Petra) —** Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker decided Monday to set up a committee which will be entrusted with drafting a detailed strategy to spread awareness among the public of environmental and climatic problems in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Earth Summit, held in Rio De Janeiro June 3-14.

The national committee will comprise representatives of the ministries of industry and trade, health, agriculture, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, the Jordanian Society for the Conservation of Nature, the Royal Scientific Society, Jordanian universities and environmental experts and scholars who will work in coordination with the Ministry of Information.

The Earth Summit had reached two agreements on climate changes and biodiversity.

## Austrian delegation due in Amman to talk trade

**AMMAN (J.T.) —** An Austrian trade delegation headed by Peter Rattinger, Director of the Middle East Desk of the Federal Economic Chamber in Vienna, is scheduled to arrive this Tuesday for a two-day stay in Amman, according to the Austrian embassy.

Representatives of 15 leading Austrian manufacturers and exporters of industrial equipment and supplies will meet Jordanian businessmen interested in Austrian quality products. The product list includes flavours for the food industries, metal pigments and chemicals for the treatment of metals, brick production lines, furniture, laminates, polyester yarns, tools, electrical equipment and wires, filter and other equipment required by cement industries, crushers for the mining industry, food commodities and medical electrodes.

The visit comes at a time when expansion of Jordan's industrial sector is under way. Austrian companies are ready to assist in this development not only by providing equipment and materials as they have been doing over many years, but to supply know-how required in production of quality products.

Possibilities of closer cooperation between Austrian and Jordanian industries will be discussed with high ranking Jordanian personalities in government and business.

Based on the increase of Jordan's industrial activities, Austrian exports to Jordan doubled last year and this upward trend continues during this year as Austrian exports are expected to surpass the level of 1991. On the other hand Jordanian agricultural and industrial products are met with interest in Austria.

## Ambassador to Iraq presents credentials

**BAGHDAD (Petra) —** Jordan's newly appointed ambassador to Iraq Nasouh Al Majidi Sunday presented his credentials to Iraqi Vice President Izzat Ibrahim. Mr. Ibrahim expressed his pride in Jordan and King Hussein's desire for pan-Arab unity. He called for enhancing relations between the two countries.

## Japan's ambassador leaves Jordan

**AMMAN (Petra) —** Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama Monday left Amman for Tokyo ending his tenure in the Kingdom. Mr. Nonoyama who was appointed ambassador to Jordan in 1989, lauded the Japanese-Jordanian relations, and voiced hope that these relations would be enhanced. Mr. Nonoyama will be succeeded by Yui Ikeda who is due to arrive in Amman in December.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## A sound call for decentralisation

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's call for decentralisation in the country on the occasion of the oath ceremony for new governors is in essence a complementary step to the ongoing democratisation process. In the operational sense, democracy cannot function well when power is centralised. In all democratic countries of the world, decentralisation is a main feature of democracy and a mainstay of its operation. One of the basic ingredients of democracy is the accountability of officials, which can only be achieved through the effective participation of people at all levels of government. Centralisation of power, as has been demonstrated in many occasions, especially in Eastern Europe, is anathema to public and state interests. Over and above the economic cost of centralisation is also counterproductive and inefficient. Take the Water Authority as an example.

That organisation, which controls all water resources and the water distribution down to each household, has shown all the ills that a big institution suffers from. The authority is in the red, its services are most unsatisfactory and its outlets in cities and villages epitomise inefficiency.

There has always been consensus on the wisdom and need to decentralise. What remains is how to translate that into sensible manifestations. The appointment of governors itself is counter to decentralisation.

The policy itself contradicts the very basic tenets of democracy. Officials cannot be accountable to the people unless they are elected by them.

Although Amman has been denied an elected municipal council for a long time, almost all other municipalities elect their councils although the scope of municipal council's responsibilities has been narrowing all the time. Municipalities used to run their own electricity and water services, but those two important functions have been taken away from them and entrusted to central government. In the developed democracies of the North, municipal councils run almost all matters related to peoples' lives. Those councils not only collect refuse, but they also run schools, police, transport and all other community services.

His Majesty's call for decentralisation should be immediately translated into government policy.

The people will be the first to bear the fruit of such a belated move. Their representatives in Parliament are therefore responsible for accelerating it.

## Are there students of history among the Arab leaders?

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

HAVE THE lessons from the political quakes, represented in the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent rise of a monolithic world power, been grasped by the Arab leadership, whether heads of states, heads of political parties, the intelligentsia, community leaders and heads of labour organisations? Have these leaders reacted positively towards the Palestinian intifada, which has exposed the fallacy of dependency on military power as the only strategic asset of the repressive Israeli state, and which has created new options for the occupied? Have the lessons of the Gulf war been studied and appropriate conclusions reached? And, will the recent 1992 electoral turnaround in the United States constitute a catalyst for these leaders to change their attitudes, ways of thinking and their inclination towards dependency on empty promises?

Such a reevaluation will reveal the need to implement a process of systematic work based on planning and long and short range strategies to confront these changes, which are global in their import and can hardly be understood if they are not studied and analysed immediately by research centres. Such study and analysis will, hopefully, lead to the implementation of new policies capable of exploiting such changes and capable of preventing the Arab peoples from being left in the wilderness, travelling the one-way road to self defeat or suicide.

What is called a new world order, if it is conceived as a benign system committed to human rights and democracy, is really a myth, a big lie. It is the system of the strong driven by ulterior motives of domination based on "divide and rule," the old colonial maxim. The Kurds of Iraq should be protected, but the same Kurds living in Turkey should be massacred by the tanks and jet fighters of the Atlantic force; Kuwait should be "liberated," whilst the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina are left at the mercy of Serbian forces; the Jews should have a state of their own, whilst Palestinians are denied their right to self-determination and their children killed on the very lands on which their ancestors lived before the existence of Judaism.

This new world order, much like the one first promoted by Hitler in the late thirties, is a political system where only the fittest survive. The only alternative for the weak, underdeveloped nations is to mobilise, organise and develop their own indigenous economic and human potential. Such states do in fact have natural allies within developed societies too: the homeless and unemployed, as well as educational and health representatives and leaders from the impoverished inner cities, all of whom are suffering because of the same inequitable distribution of resources which perpetuates inequality at the global level. These "target" groups also suffer when, for example, their government continues to support foreign powers, such as Israel, at the tax-payers' expense, even when that foreign power has lost its strategic asset. Indeed, at the end

of the cold war Israel created the myth of the "Islamic threat" and launched a campaign in the West to ensure the idea was adopted and to ensure that Israel would not lose its status as the front-line defender of western interests.

In the aftermath of the recent electoral change in the U.S., there is a need for a more astute understanding of the dynamics of American policy-making. To characterise America as a "murderous society," as a recent Arabic daily did, is distortionist. Likewise, to see U.S. policies solely as the handiwork of the Zionist lobby is to overstate the case. Rather than castigating the power of a "rival" lobby and relying on empty rhetoric, the Arab World needs to increase its influence on, and within, a country which is able to exert such a crucial influence on the region. If the extent of analysis is the crass conclusion that America is a "murderous society," and the draconian Zionist lobby is all-pervasive, then we will fail in the important task which is how to effectively confront and exploit U.S. influence and we will eventually fall to self-defeat and surrender to such unconfrontable "devils."

The organisational aspect of the Zionist lobby is the source of its power. Though the Jews constitute only 2.5 per cent of the American population, their organisation and their mobilisation capability, at every level of America's political, economic and social institutions, yields great power. When the Michigan Centre for Political Studies discovered that only 67 per cent of the eligible Jewish voters go to the polls, a retired Jewish publisher with a budget initiated by the Synagogue Council of America, mobilised more than fifty thousand volunteers. The result was the registration of more than 200,000 Jewish voters, in the 13 key states, which alone represent 273 electoral votes, where 90 per cent of the American Jewish population lives. The campaign was described as the largest Jewish voter registration drive in American history. In addition, at least 15 million dollars was contributed to the Clinton election campaign by Jewish supporters, to whom Clinton has promised "never to let Israel down."

Have the Arabs, whether heads of states or parties and organisations who have acted as though the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict lies in the hands of the U.S. administration alone, worked to face the challenge of changing the imbalanced institutionalised relationships working in favour of Israel? As far as I know, there is not one single research centre for American studies in any Arab university or within any Arab government. In addition, Arab governments' designate representatives to Washington have tended to be chosen regardless of merit or capabilities, and have shown no evidence of having any strategies to pursue, let alone attain, a change in the current diplomatic and political status quo.

However, such a shortcoming could be remedied and compensated for by voluntary non-governmental organisations, if there is determination to mobilise Arab-Americans who should rise

above the political differences between their respective motherlands. If such mobilisation is combined with planning, based on an understanding of the dynamics of decision-making in the U.S., then the Arab World may be able to start exercising a level of influence proportional to its human and economic wealth.

Given Clinton's and the U.S. Democratic Party's history of support for Israel, Clinton and Gore's Baptist Christianity which sees Israel as the fulfilment of prophecy, and Vice-president-elect Gore's own history of opposition to Arab interests, including his rejection of forgiving Egyptian debts as a reward for orchestrating the Arab coalition in the West's campaign against Iraq, the time and circumstances may not appear favourable to bring about changes in favour of a balanced U.S. Middle East policy. But the fact is that the factors which determined Clinton's victory and the victory of Democratic senators nationwide, namely a recessionary American economy and a lack of government investment in the degenerating educational and health systems and the failure to tackle soaring unemployment, are incongruous to the pouring of billions of dollars from the pockets of American taxpayers to underwrite Israel's ailing economy and expansionist policies and to finance the settling of what are essentially economic immigrants.

The representatives of American forces for change should be addressed by well organised Arab-American institutions which could then mobilise other American groups such as the representatives of academia, the homeless, mayors of impoverished cities, underprivileged sections of American society, American peace forces, and indeed all tax-paying Americans who are clearly fed-up with the astronomical levels of foreign aid they have to subsidise at the expense of their own communities.

To make such a job easier, the Arab Nation needs first to maximise its own potential and, in order to extract the maximum from its relationship with the world's powers, the Arab World needs to begin with a better understanding of the regional and global forces of change which are determining the current dynamics of regional and global policies.

Arab-based U.S. studies centres should be established to facilitate understanding of the multi-strata nature of the American political arena and help in the planning and implementation of the region's U.S. policies. The Arab World must concentrate on utilising its own resources for its own interests, and if unable to unite in any meaningful fashion, should at least coordinate responses for there is a growth of opposition which threatens to seriously challenge the status quo. In addition, in order for many Arab regimes to enjoy their maximum influence among the community of nations they should be democratised and mobilise national economic and human resources not for the short-term benefit of a few, but for confronting the challenges of the twenty-first century. Then their interests will be reckoned with and respected.

A campaign, which can only be outlined in its barest form here,

could be based around a dual emphasis: In the first place the new Clinton administration and the American people need to be constantly reminded of the factor which brought about Bush's downfall — the American economy. Thus, a campaign to highlight the extent of American financial support for Israel and the opportunity cost of this to the American people and Mideast peace, is vital, for example:

— Israel receives \$4 billion annually whilst the U.S. budget suffers a massive deficit.

— Israel's payment of \$90 million per annum as "scoring" for the recent loan guarantees will, courtesy of the Cranston Amendment, in actuality be paid by the U.S. tax-payer.

— Israel's current debt-servicing costs account for 40 per cent of its budget, an increasingly unsustainable burden.

— U.S. financial support for the settlement of economic immigrants from the ex-Soviet Union in Israel, contravenes stated U.S. policy.

Second, Clinton's own pronouncements of foreign policy, such as his advocacy for supporting democracy and human rights and confronting states which violate human rights as well as states which develop weapons of mass destruction, should be used to challenge unquestioned U.S. support for Israel. In more specific terms, Clinton has praised highly Israel's supposed curtailment of settlement activity under its new Labour government and has presented new Israeli premier Rabin as the "man of peace." The facts of the matter need to be kept before the American people and the world to pre-empt an international move to extract further concessions from the Palestinians and the Arabs, such as an end to the economic boycott which is emerging as a favourite issue for Clinton. Examples of appropriate campaign issues:

— Israel's settlement activity is continuing unabated, and it continues to expropriate Palestinian land, including the land and property of American citizens.

— Israel's continued violation of Palestinians' human rights and of international law is well-documented by international organisations and the U.S. State Department.

— Israel's possession of nuclear and chemical weapons are as destabilising to Mideast peace as are their possession by Arab states.

— Mideast peace necessitates a just solution to the issue of Jerusalem.

In the final analysis, the cold war has ended and with it the *raison d'être* for Israel's role as a strategic asset; perceived Arab intransigence, which previously made Israel's diplomatic job in the U.S. very easy, has been replaced by an active and constructive Arab participation in the peace process; and the domestic American support for financially underwriting Israel may, in the current climate, be receding. Now is the time for a more concerted, planned and systematic Arab effort to redress the traditional asymmetry in the U.S. approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is not an easy job, nor a quick one, but the prospect of doing nothing is catastrophic.

## Cars and car culture

By Yasser Alwan

IN RECENT months, the issue of Jordan's traffic mess has come to the fore, and rightly so. Numerous articles, editorials, letters-to-the-editor, and television news clips have profiled what one author has called anarchy on the road. This coverage usually does out a suitable quantity of grizzly statistics and enumerates a series of "mores" on traffic safety to make its point. It calls for more coordination among the concerned government agencies, more appropriate law enforcement, more signs and well-marked pedestrian crossings, more traffic education, more expensive fines and better roads. The list probably goes on and on.

Unfortunately, however, the cumulative effect of this media coverage has been — in one very important sense — deceptively misleading. While highlighting the problem, it treats this issue as if it were an isolated phenomenon in modern Arab culture instead of yet one more manifestation of a broader phenomenon that I usually call cultural schizophrenia. In this case, cultural gridlock seems more fitting. The media hullabaloo and monthly horror statistics might just frighten some people into driving more rationally, but the doomsday-on-the-roadway perspective offers only scare tactics and conventional thinking. It does not propose a long-term solution because it has yet to consider the crux of the problem rather than analyse the underlying causes — without which we will only be staggering from one short-term solution to the next.

Lets face it, ladies and gentlemen, anybody can drive an automatic automobile. And it does not take much more brains to drive a standard. Yet it takes a human being to respect other people, whether on the road or off, as a driver, passenger or pedestrian. So why is it that we view driving on (and even crossing) Jordan's roads as an adversarial or competitive relationship rather than a cooperative one? Why is it that too many adult men and women behave like children behind the wheel? The statistics cited by the media are damning evidence that too many of us turn off our minds when we turn on our engines. Stand nearby any of Amman's circles and ask yourself: Do people in cars or herds of cattle transport themselves more efficiently — and more safely?

One author claims that Americans drive more sanely than we do because they are forced to, because the fines and penalties are steep. I beg to differ. Oh sure, some people would speed more and more often, no question. But I don't think Americans would begin switching from the far left lane to the far right lane without signalling, or making a left turn from the right lane, or driving the wrong way down a one-way street, or pulling over on a busy intersection to pick someone up or drop someone off, or playing chicken with an innocent pedestrian, or crossing the road despite oncoming traffic. Need I continue? Most Americans would continue to behave quite rationally because they have been taught to police themselves, on the road or off. When they do not, disasters like the Los Angeles riots occur and I do not foresee any roadway riot occurring on America's highways, even if the penalties were reduced.

Yet, if we continue spoonfed numbers and instead of creative thinking we have authority that have in society will be obstacle. How we think problems, how we conduct and approach them reflect behaviour and our solution incumbent on journal spearhead this reconcept. Otherwise, we will still be playing bumper car each other's lives ten years now.

So, are we just less and law-abiding than others, as the same author says? That's too easy. In media's coverage, the steps or a list of more that do not serious solution. Arab problems are often intricate and complex, seem at first.

This one, however, is cult to comprehend. In simplest possible terms, down to this: We have car culture. The former only money to acquire, latter requires a proper learning and education (our current drivers and reeducation) — a night purchase.

Real learning means, standing more than us and routines. Systems of that merely staff up with facts and figures, allowed to goad us into sense of certainty. Such universities must open up not close them. They must self-confidence and analytical reasoning. They must teach us how to learn through lives.

Arabs have been buying western trinkets. In this century, these trinkets became locally advanced machine transportation, produced war. The instruction they came with only of their mechanics, not metaphysics. We have abashedly continued our ping spree, but not out. Hence, the phenomenon foreign technical expert have to hire to show us use the things we buy. He traffic mess. Hence the we still have to buy from abroad instead of to develop our own.

It is time we all we Modernisation is more technological process; ways prove that. I am gesting that things are we are using computers, cracker, but at least the not kill. One can still fancy foreign car, but it hide the fact that he is badly.

The Arab World driving in Baghdad or Calais, just as bad — is in need of a philosophy-fram model that allows us to realise our current pi within the broader scope recent history. The electronic media will play important role to process, but not in a usual mode. Only if the rethink this and other we begin to understand profoundly and more what ails Arab societies. Then perhaps we can at problems not one by one, later fragments, but rather more organic and less manner.

Yet, if we continue spoonfed numbers and instead of creative thinking we have authority that have in society will be obstacle. How we think problems, how we conduct and approach them reflect behaviour and our solution incumbent on journal spearhead this reconcept. Otherwise, we will still be playing bumper car each other's lives ten years now.

## Russian turmoil may be early challenge for Clinton

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Russia's deteriorating political and economic climate could become one of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's first serious foreign policy challenges.

Some experts fear domestic opposition to President Boris Yeltsin's free market reforms may lead to a tougher approach to international issues on which Moscow has been cooperating with Washington, including the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

There are signs this may be already happening. Mr. Yeltsin cancelled a trip to Japan because of a territorial dispute, postponed a Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltics and has yet to conclude an important nuclear agreement with Washington.

President George Bush, preoccupied with the presidential election campaign, appears to have given little attention to Russia, the country vital to what former Secretary of State James Baker called "a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape the course of history and define a new age of

peace."

Senior U.S. officials are monitoring developments in Russia, where Mr. Yeltsin is under attack by hardline opponents of radical economic reform and ethnic conflicts are escalating.

U.S. policy towards Russia has atrophied. There is no sign the outgoing administration is doing anything to bolster Mr. Yeltsin as he faces a meeting in December of Russia's supreme legislature, the congress of people's deputies.

U.S. officials and outside experts believe Mr. Yeltsin remains committed to reform but many are worried about the compromises he has made, or will have to make, to stave off the conservative onslaught.

Problems confronting Mr. Yeltsin "should be of grave concern to the administration," said Leon Aron of the American Enterprise Institute.

A senior U.S. official told Reuters: "Any compromises Yeltsin has to make en route to reform, while understandable, slow down the progress and direction that we're looking for."

Experts are divided over whether the man leading Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms,

Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, will be forced out.

Some, like John Hardy of the Library of Congress, believe Mr. Yeltsin must compromise with the conservative umbrella group known as Civic Union to broaden political support for reforms and make adjustments which would focus more on increasing real

income, employment, consumer goods and privatisation.

In his first post-election comment on Wednesday, Mr. Clinton promised to work closely with Mr. Bush to "ensure continuity in global affairs," including bolstering Russian democracy.

This does not necessarily mean he will maintain the status quo. In

the campaign, Mr. Clinton criticised Mr. Bush for not doing enough quickly to support Russia's democratic moves. But the new president does not take office until Jan. 20.

According to Russian reports, Mr. Yeltsin proposed an early summit during his first telephone conversation with Mr. Clinton on

Thursday. He was said to suggested economic coop and political cooperation arms control.

Mr. Clinton's spokesman only that a summit was decided but nothing was decided.

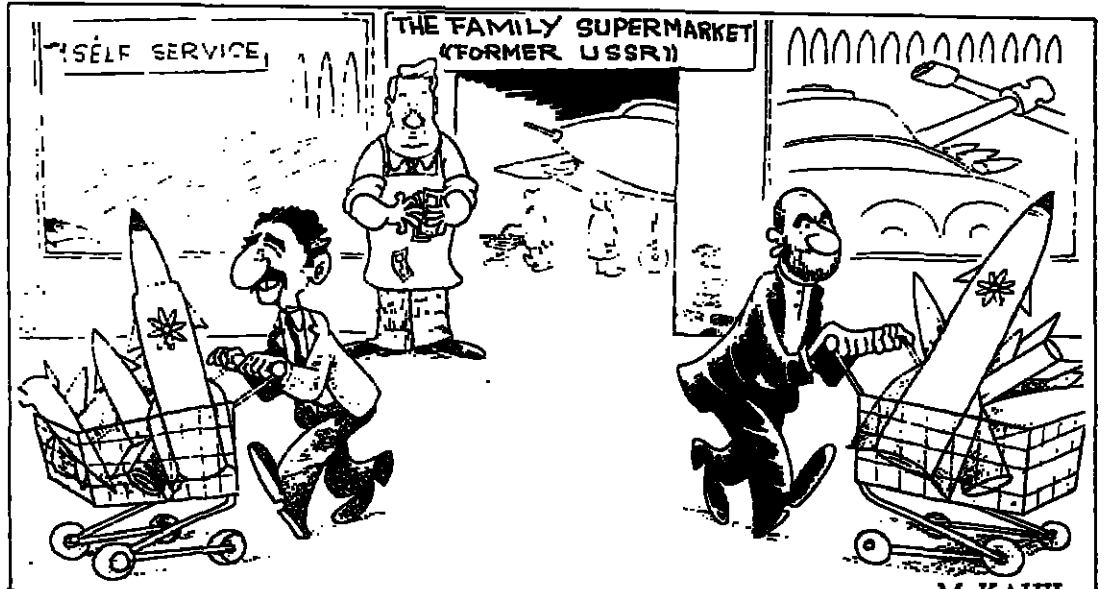
While this overture is encouraging, some experts U.S.-Soviet ties could be difficult period if Mr. Yeltsin to deflect conservative off undermine economic reform taking a tougher line on policy.

Mr. Aron said Mr. Y might choose foreign and affairs as areas in which he take steps to placate the nation.

Referring to recent anti-Russian president, "Whether this is tactic or Yeltsin himself is, gro tougher we don't know."

A senior U.S. official acknowledged domestic political had reduced Mr. Yeltsin's dom to manoeuvre in the nine months.

Giving the war in Yugoslavia as an example said: "It is harder for the sians now to take position are seen domestically as Serb."





# The Vikings — a fabulous epic

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

great travellers, colonising the Shetland Islands and the Faeroes, and Iceland, and discovering Greenland thanks to Erik the Red and, thanks to Leif, Erik's son, probably America in present-day Newfoundland, going around the North Cape and then crossing the White Sea to reach Arkhangelsk, and in France (Normandy), following the Mediterranean coast to reach Sicily, going up Slav

and law-abiding Vikings were maritime men, as the sea was their element. That's too easy to say, and reached the steps of a list of the most serious problems are the same and blend into the same. This one, however, have left treasures of silver and gold. The Vikings were Scandinavians, and they belonged to the same latter requires (the) and worshipped the gods: Odin, the supreme and reeducation (thought) and Munin night purchase. Real learning is the protector of men, and routines. Freya, the goddess of fertility and fecundity. They with facts and figures from the North and in allowed to go. They were known as Norsemen of certain. Deliver us, O Lord, from universities must be men who are ravaged not close them. In country, the monks self-confidence. analytical reason. Viking era, extending they must learn approximately 800 to 1050, time to learn in expeditions, colonisation.

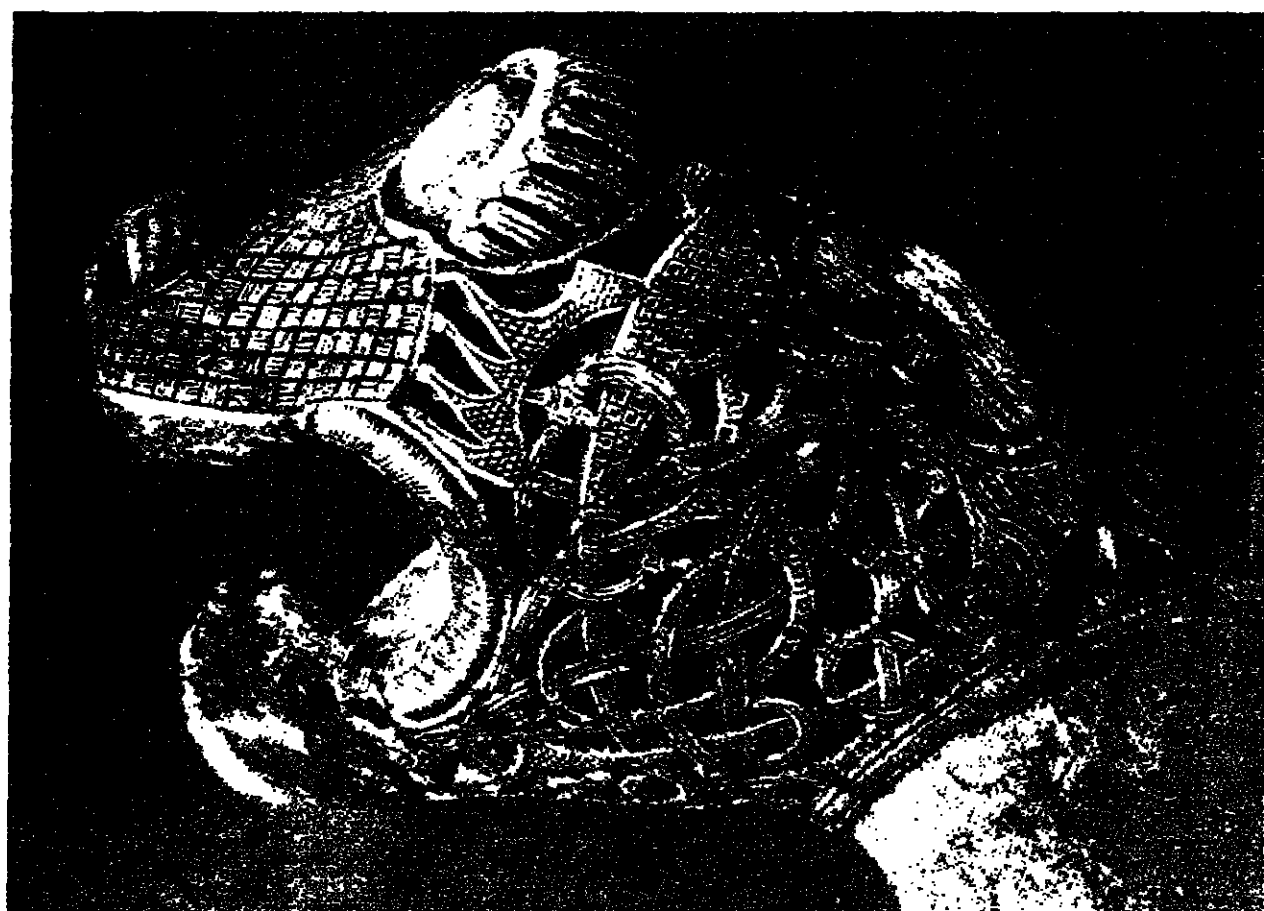
Arabs have had, for a long time, buying Western traders, with posts on the coasts of Western Europe. By this, the director of the Institute of Scandinavian Languages, war. The image and Civilisation at the they came with, comments that "The their mechanic simply noticed one day metaphysics, it was easier to settle a abashed, with a big blow of the ping pong ball, than to discuss it for a Hence, the men, they were not hordes of have to be, but handfuls of bold use the surprise attacks on traffic, as places such as con-

claves in France. Only a few words of Old Norse were to enrich French vocabulary. As perfectly organised traders, used to working together, the Vikings were appreciated for their sense of order and administration. "Nestor's chronicles" (Kiev, 12th century) recount how the Slavs, unable to overcome their divisions, called upon these Vikings, whom they named "Rus", and who were to create "Russia", to govern them. The Scandinavians were also ingenious craftsmen and inventive goldsmiths. The gold and silver jewellery with their intri-

cate intertwining patterns and the delicate filigree show the refinement of their art. Ivory, worked with imagination and precision, burst into flowers, leaves, dragons and grotesque or sacred figures. They also had an alphabet, runes, offered by the god Odin after it was revealed to him in the cosmic ash "Yggdrasil." Engraved in the coils of a serpent most often, numerous grave stones bear glorious epitaphs to warriors promised "Valhalla," the paradise for men killed in battle who are carried off by the "Valkyries." But runes were not only used for funerary eulogies as

proved by the inscription "darling, kiss me quick" hurriedly carved in a piece of wood. With the adoption of Christianity, the runes were to disappear in favour of the Latin alphabet. Yet, in the 19th century, they were to be at the origin of a prodigious adventure. When looking through a manuscript by the great Icelandic poet and historian Snorri Sturluson, Professor Lidenbrock, the famous character invented by Jules Verne, discovered a coded message in runes showing him the entrance to the "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" — L'Actualité En France.

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Viking art: Dragon head finely chiselled

## Shells Lebanon in new violence

14-year-old Israeli killed in Katynia rocket attacks against northern Israel. Hizbollah has vowed never to lay down arms until Israel quits the "security zone" established in 1985 on 1,100 square kilometres of Lebanon territory. Hizbollah guerrillas vowed Monday to press ahead with their war against

Israel. Hizbollah militants marched at the funeral of the four killed in Sunday's Israeli air raid. "We are not afraid. We will not back down... we will continue our jihad (holy war) until our goals are reached," Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Mohammad Yazbek told marchers in the eastern town of Baalbek.

## Shbeilat supporters stage sit-in

efforts exerted with the government. Another verbal clash broke out between leftist Deputy Mansour Murad and Shbeilat supporters for what was described by the protesters as the "parliament's lack of action to defend Shbeilat." The Brotherhood issued two statements since Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash were arrested last August calling for constitutional amendments that would grant deputies immunity throughout their term in Parliament and requesting a royal decree which would free the detained deputies. Sheikh Abu Zant confirmed reports that the Lower House's Public Freedoms Committee had met with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Monday, but he refused to comment on the outcome of the meeting regarding

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## at urges Clinton to adopt Bush line

The Arab League driving in Baghdad, as just as the need of a political-elect belief in the model that shows stability in the world, tualise our for human rights, self-within the tradition, democracy and recent history. electronic media is wanted "a just and important, role sensitive peace in the Mid-process, but not for all the peoples in the usual mode. Of including the Palestinian rethink this and we begin to start said the Bush administration told Palestinian negotiators that it supports the problems not related fragments, more organic manner.

## ence clouds Mideast peace talks

Yet, if we spoonfed League peace-keeping instead of creating, very authentic relations with Syria have in such chain shielded against obstacle. How "interference and whims," problems, how said, apparently ahud-and approach the recent U.S. urgings that behaviour and incumbent on spearhead the tion. Others are still be playing each other's now.

## ubarak accuses Iran exporting terrorism

(R) — President Hosni Mubarak, facing a surge of Muslim unrest, accused Iran of exporting terrorism. Egypt refused to have relations with Tehran, but only establishes relations with countries which respect do not intervene in the affairs of other countries. Mubarak's stern statement came just weeks after Muslim U.S. Secretary of State James Baker shot dead a British tourist in the Nile Valley, one of a series of attacks intended to damage Egypt's most lucrative industry: million tourists visited in the year to last July, the country \$3 billion.

## Shbeilat supporters stage sit-in

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## Moscow officials 'ignored warnings' of Caucasus unrest

MOSCOW (R) — The official in charge of restoring order in Russia's northern Caucasus Monday accused Kremlin representatives in the area of ignoring warning signs of a buildup of ethnic unrest that killed about 200 people.

Deputy Prime Minister Georgy Khizha said the country's leadership was told nothing of the political discontent and illegal stockpiling of weapons that preceded Russia's worst unrest since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"No one among the people on the ground provided any information to the leadership. Our local representatives made no statements, gave no warnings," Khizha told a news conference.

"How was it that no one noticed how these actions were being prepared? Huge buildups of weapons, armoured vehicles, automatic weapons, machine guns, grenade launchers, artil-

lery. There was everything you could imagine, on both sides."

The conflict was the first major outbreak in Russia of the violence which has bedeviled Transcaucasia to the south and Central Asia to the east since the outset of Kremlin perestroika reforms in the mid-1980s.

In Tajikistan on the Chinese border, where rival clans have been fighting for more than a year, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported fresh clashes Monday south of the capital Dushanbe.

Thousands of residents were flooding into the city, swelling the 55,000 already seeking shelter there.

Mr. Khizha was sent to North Ossetia last week to halt clashes between Ossetians and Ingushis — two of the many ethnic groups whose long-held grudges make the north Caucasus a tinder box. Armed Ingushis had poured

into the region demanding property they say was promised them last year by Russia, five decades after they were deported en masse by Stalin to Central Asia.

Mr. Khizha was named to head a temporary administration under a state of emergency imposed by President Boris Yeltsin. Three thousand extra Russian troops have been sent to separate and disarm combatants in the region, where a curfew is in force.

Mr. Khizha told reporters that about 200 people had died in clashes, most of them armed fighters from both sides. At least eight Russian servicemen had died and some 30,000 Ingushis had been forced from their homes.

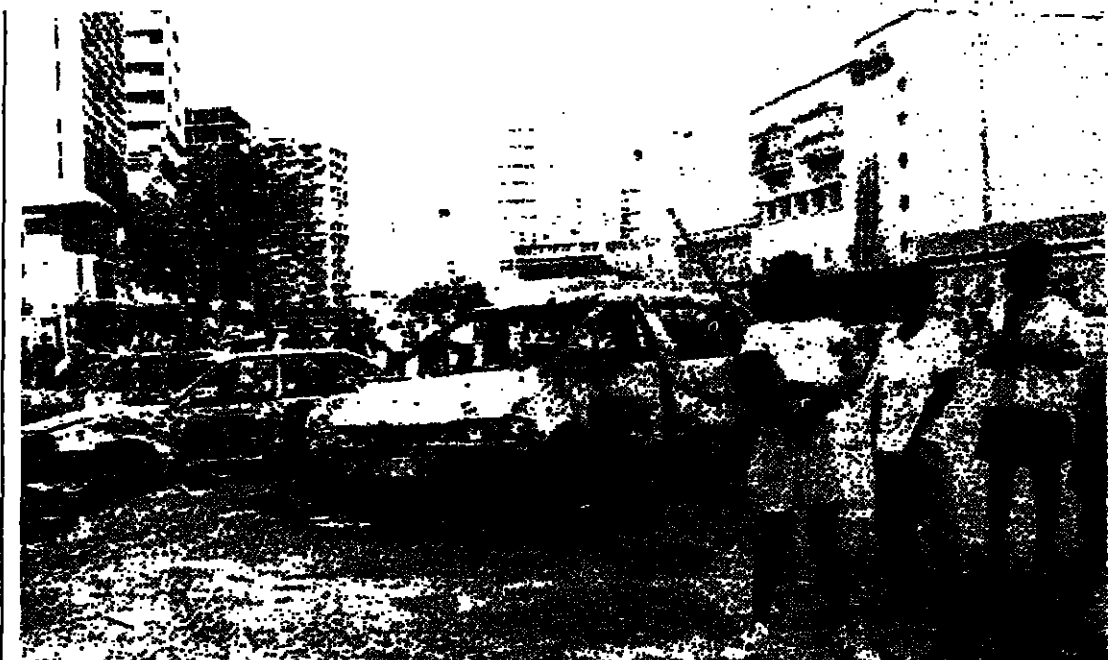
Reports from North Ossetia Monday said fighting had largely died down, though some groups were still taking hostages.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin told journalists before leaving for a visit to Britain that Moscow would take stringent measures to deter anyone from fomenting trouble elsewhere.

"The fact that Russia rapidly, virtually within 48 hours, took control of the complex situation will give food for thought to anyone thinking of organising another conflict," he said.

Mr. Khizha said Russia had been mistaken to seek a political settlement by passing a law promising to return to the Ingushis territory seized from them in 1940.

"I think these decisions...provoked the situation," he said. "Trying to settle territorial issues in this way is sheer madness. You can talk about justice and injustice after world war II, but re-examining borders is simply senseless."



People look at burned out and wrecked vehicles of rebel leaders in Luanda after more than 2,000 people were killed in heavy fighting in Angola (AFP photo)

## Hun Sen says renewal of Cambodia war imminent

BANGKOK (R) — Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen warned Monday that full-scale war could erupt again in Cambodia after the failure of international mediators to coax Khmer Rouge guerrillas back into the peace process.

The fate of the accord, which brought the United Nations' biggest-ever peacekeeping mission into the devastated country, was now in the hands of the U.N. Security Council, he said.

It should immediately impose sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, Mr. Hun Sen told reporters at Bangkok Airport en route home from the failed talks in Peking.

"Right now we are not at war but if no immediate measures are taken it might be the renewal of

war," he said.

The weekend talks, involving the four rival Cambodian factions, the French and Indonesian foreign ministers as co-sponsors of the 1991 peace accord, and other interested nations, failed to resolve Khmer Rouge complaints.

The Khmer Rouge refuse to send their fighters to U.N.-supervised camps for disarmament or to allow peacekeepers into their zones as its former guerrilla allies and the Phnom Penh government have done.

They say Vietnamese troops, who ousted a savage Khmer Rouge regime in early 1979, remain in Cambodia although the 16,000-strong peacekeeping force has been unable to find any.

## Fears grow that Charles and Diana will separate

LONDON (R) — Fears of an imminent separation between heir to the British throne Prince Charles and Princess Diana grew Monday as one newspaper predicted a formal announcement by Buckingham Palace within weeks.

The Daily Mail, the first newspaper to break the story of the impending divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York earlier this year, said separate living arrangements for Prince Charles and Princess Diana were already being negotiated.

A statement acknowledging that the two royal households have been established, and that the marriage is over in all but name, will be made before the end of the year, the paper said.

It stressed there would be no question of a divorce but neither would there be any further attempts at reconciliation.

A split in the 11-year marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, the shy aristocrat who blossomed into one of the world's most glamorous princesses, would be a severe blow to Queen Elizabeth in her 40th year on the British throne.

It would mean that all three marriages of the queen's four children would effectively have come to an end in a year.

Mounting press speculation about the marriage of the queen's second son Prince Andrew to the flame-haired Duchess of York, popularly known as "Fergie," forced Buckingham Palace to announce a separation in March.

In April, Princess Anne, the queen's only daughter, ended her 18-year marriage to equestrian businessman Captain Mark Phil-

lips. It was only the second official divorce in the inner circle of the royal family since Henry VIII in the 16th century.

The queen's sister, Princess Margaret, divorced photographer Lord Snowdon in 1978.

Britain's tabloid newspapers, and some broadsheets, have devoted huge amounts of newsprint to Prince Charles and Princess Diana's marriage since last week's seemingly ill-fated South Korean tour.

On her return to London, the 31-year-old princess issued a rare statement attacking press reports of cool relations between her, the queen and the queen's husband, Prince Philip.

The statement was widely viewed as a Buckingham Palace blunder because there was no mention of Prince Charles and no attempt to deny there were problems with their marriage.

Newspapers reported at the weekend that Princess Diana had delivered a snub to Prince Charles by telling him she wanted to spend Christmas with her brother rather than at the traditional royal get-together at Sandringham Palace in eastern England.

The couple spent most of their 11th wedding anniversary apart and Princess Diana was reported to have arranged a trip to France Friday — Prince Charles' 44th birthday.

Tabloid newspapers said the royal couple would begin to lead separate lives, but the princess would remain a member of the royal family and would live with the couple's two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Dubcek to be buried in Slovakia

PRAGUE (R) — Alexander Dubcek, hero of the "Prague Spring" reforms that were crushed by Soviet-led armies, will be buried in the Slovak capital of Bratislava next Saturday, government officials said Monday.

Mr. Dubcek died Saturday in a Prague hospital where he had been in intensive care since his car plunged off the Prague-Bratislava Highway on Sept. 1. Slovak government spokesman Bohuslav Geci told reporters Mr. Dubcek would receive "an official farewell" but gave no further details.

This appeared to fall short of a formal state funeral, which is reserved for top government and parliamentary officials. Mr. Dubcek was a member of the Czechoslovak federal parliament when he died. Reaction in Czechoslovakia to the death of Mr. Dubcek, who died just two weeks short of his 71st birthday, has been muted. There have been few public expressions of grief for the man who attempted to introduce "socialism with a human face" two decades before Communist rule was finally swept away in the "velvet revolution" of 1989.

#### Briton wanted for murder found dead

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — A fugitive British businessman wanted in the murder of his wife and three children was found dead in his car in the California desert Sunday, police said.

The body of Ian Spiro showed no sign of injuries and investigators had not yet determined the cause of death, said deputy Phil Brust, a spokesman for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Spiro, 46, an international commodities broker, was declared the main suspect Sunday in the murder of his family, found shot dead Thursday in their bedrooms in their luxurious rented home in San Diego. His body was found by hikers in a remote spot a mile (1.5 km) from the main road in the Anza Borrego Desert, about 70 miles (110 km) east of the scene of the murders. The car door was locked with the keys inside, police said. Deputy Brust said Mr. Spiro was still regarded as the main suspect in the killings but he declined to speculate whether he committed suicide or had been killed. An autopsy was planned for Monday, he said.

#### Le Pen deplores attacks on journalists

PARIS (R) — French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen Monday deplored attacks on journalists during his National Front Party's weekend convention but accused the media of taking him hostage.

Right-wing extremists beat up a TFI television technician and punched, kicked and spat at other journalists Sunday at the "blue, red and white festival" celebrating the anti-immigration party's 20th anniversary. Journalists covering the event accused Mr. Le Pen of inciting the violence and boycotted his closing speech.

The rightist leader, stung by frequent accusations of fascism and racism, has launched an anti-press crusade, accusing the media of ignoring or distorting his ideas. A member of the party's political bureau, Roger Holleindre, had warned TV reporters they could "get their faces smashed in" after the France-2 station broadcast last week a documentary on Mr. Le Pen's alleged links with neo-Nazis and collaborators with the World War II Nazi German occupation of France.

#### Miyazawa moves away from scandal

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa tried Monday to distance himself from an unprecedented plan by Japan's ruling party to sue prosecutors investigating the Sagawa money-and-mobsters scandal.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Friday it would sue prosecutors for libel for naming seven LDP politicians accused of trying to strike a deal with an ultra-rightist group to stop its harassment of a future prime minister. Two of the seven are said to have offered billions of yen to the Kominto group to end its campaign. The others were also named as having approached Kominto though not of offering money.

The Sagawa scandal, named after the mob-linked trucking firm which allegedly gave politicians huge sums in return for favours, has outraged the public and split the LDP's largest faction. Koichi Kato, chief government spokesman, maintained Mr. Miyazawa never intended to criticise prosecutors when he jumped to the defence of the seven politicians in parliament late last week.

## Goulding waits for talks with Savimbi

LUANDA (R) — United Nations troubleshooter Marrack Goulding was Monday still seeking a meeting with UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi to discuss Angola's fragile peace accords and try to avert renewed full-scale civil war.

Mr. Goulding had hoped to fly to Savimbi's stronghold of Huambo Sunday following talks the previous day with President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos on the fighting which has swept Angola since a dispute over September's elections.

Mr. Goulding's mission follows nearly a week of heavy fighting between UNITA and government forces across the country which diplomats estimate killed more than 2,000 people and threatens to rekindle the 16-year war, halted by peace accords in May 1991.

A ceasefire is largely holding across Angola but tension is high. At the weekend shooting broke out in Viana just southeast of Luanda and in central Malanje province, international aid officials said.

UNITA supporters, looting and killing members of Mr. Savimbi's Ovimbundu tribe in Luanda slums.

The United Nations, which was overseeing the country's transition to democracy, alienated Mr. Savimbi by rejecting his accusations that the Sept. 29-30 elections which UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) lost were rigged.

Sources close to Mr. Savimbi say the veteran guerrilla chief's morale was shaken by the capture and deaths of some of his top generals in clashes a week ago in Luanda between UNITA forces and police and civilian militias.

UNITA controls more than a third of Angola, particularly in the central heartland, the south, and northern diamond areas but is not powerful enough to seize Luanda should fresh fighting erupt, diplomats said.

UNITA Friday released seven Brazilians and 22 Russians detained at a dam north of Luanda and during the weekend freed two more Russians and six Brazilians, Brazilian sources said.

Diplomats say civilians armed by the government went on a rampage last week, hunting down

UNITA supporters, looting and killing members of Mr. Savimbi's Ovimbundu tribe in Luanda slums.

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## Greenpeace ship collides with Japanese plutonium ship's escort

PARIS (AP) — An armed Japanese escort ship has collided with a Greenpeace boat tracking a freighter laden with highly toxic plutonium, the environmental group and Japan's coast guard said.

Japan is shipping the plutonium home to fire up a new generation of nuclear fast-breeder reactors. Greenpeace opposes the shipment and is trailing it, saying the plutonium poses huge dangers ranging from a spill to an attack by terrorists seeking nuclear bomb-making material.

The freighter Akatsuki Maru, carrying 1.7 tonnes of plutonium, left the French port of Cherbourg late Saturday after a day of clashes between security forces and environmentalists.

The vessel's route on its two-month voyage to Tokohama is secret. But Greenpeace said the freighter and its armed escort, the Shikishima, were sailing southwest in the Atlantic and could reach Portugal's Azores Islands by Wednesday.

On Sunday, Greenpeace said the Shikishima rammed its ship, the Solo, in the English Channel. It said the Japanese warship's helicopter landing decks were damaged, but reported no injuries.

Greenpeace Capt. Albert Kuiken said the Shikishima was badly dented on the starboard side. He said a side railing also was ripped off, and described damage to the Solo as light.

In Tokyo Monday, Japan's coast guard, the Maritime Safety Agency, issued a statement saying the Solo, after following at a close distance, ran into the Shikishima's rear starboard twice despite warnings and evasive manoeuvres by the Japanese ship.

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## Dole becomes leading Republican voice

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's fall from power propelled Sen. Bob Dole to the forefront as the leading voice for Republicans exiled in the political wilderness.

As the Republican leader in the Senate, Sen. Dole heads a minority party that can no longer look to the White House as its ultimate source of power. This is unfamiliar territory for the Kansas senator, who served as majority leader in 1985 and 1986 and as minority leader with Republicans in the White House for the past six years.

Sen. Dole is still trying to define his role as leader of the loyal opposition, but he's made it abundantly clear that Republicans won't roll over for President-Elect Bill Clinton.

"I am willing to work with him on issues where we think it's in the national interest and where

we believe we should," Sen. Dole said in an interview Friday. "But he didn't get a mandate that in effect tells us that we have to stand aside and let everything pass."

On Sunday he threw down a gauntlet by attacking Iran-contra Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh's office as a "hotbed of Democratic activist lawyers."

Sen. Dole charged that the pre-election indictment by Mr. Walsh of former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger in the Iran-contra case was a calculated move to hurt President George Bush's reelection chances. He called for a special prosecutor to investigate the special prosecutor.

"It was outrageous that they would have this indictment of Weinberger with a note sort of bringing George Bush into the loop the Friday before the elec-

tion. I think there ought to be an investigation," Sen. Dole said on CBS-TV.

Senate Republicans meet Tuesday to elect their new leaders and Sen. Dole expects to retain his position. Sen. Dole doesn't face active opposition, Republican aides say, but he will be under pressure from conservatives to adopt a confrontational strategy in dealing with Mr. Clinton.

With at least 42 Republicans in the Senate, Sen. Dole will lead a minority that can effectively block consideration of legislation in the Senate by denying Democrats the 60 votes needed to stop filibusters. That's a practice in the Senate in which members try to scuttle or change legislation by talking it to death.

"Republicans are going to be players. We weren't wiped out. We're going to be heard from," Sen. Dole said in an interview.

## Clinton focuses on new administration; defers to Bush on trade war

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — President-Elect Bill Clinton, returning to the task of building his administration after a weekend break, is staying out of President George Bush's way on a trade war with Europe and pardons in the Iran-contra scandal.

"I just don't think I should say much right now," Mr. Clinton said Sunday after Senate minority leader Bob Dole of Kansas joined other Republicans in calling on Mr. Bush for pardons for former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other defendants in the case.

"These decisions have to be made," Mr. Clinton added, shrugging off questions about pardons in the Iran-contra arms-for-hostages scandal and Mr. Bush's plans to impose punitive tariffs on French wines and other exports.

After a weekend of jogging, golf and going to a Tom Selleck movie, Mr. Baseball, with his family, Mr. Clinton was conferring Monday with the director of

his transition team, Warren Christopher, and meeting with his state-government cabinet.

At Gore, the vice president-elect, was flying in for talks with Mr. Clinton after a weekend at his home in Tennessee.

With 72 days remaining before he takes power, Mr. Clinton tried to dampen expectations of swift action on filling senior White House and cabinet jobs.

"I'm going to work hard but not rush decisions," Mr. Clinton said. "I was so exhausted after the election I couldn't read very much for two days."

Mr. Christopher said he expected the major appointments would not come before December, and that the first emphasis would be on the economic-policy team.

Vernon Jordan, chairman of the transition board, also suggested an early December timetable but said some announcements could come as early as Thanksgiving. He hinted at a bipartisan tone in the administration.

"We will have a diverse government," Mr. Jordan said. "This government will reflect the best talents in America, and that diversity includes everybody, including Republicans."

Mr. Jordan said he did not exclude the possibility of seeking foreign policy advice from James Baker, who was the architect of Middle East peace talks before quitting as secretary of state to run Mr. Bush's campaign.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Christopher made the rounds of television talk shows offering a general blueprint of Mr. Clinton's plans.

One of Mr. Clinton's first moves in the next few weeks will be to summon economists and business leaders to Little Rock for a summit on fixing the economy, officials said.

The experts also will be sounded out on Mr. Clinton's intentions to create an Economic Security Council, patterned after the National Security Council that coordinates policy-planning on foreign policy and defence matters, officials said.

"Economic decision-making will be given a higher priority," Mr. Christopher said.

Offering a preview of a Clinton administration, Mr. Jordan said planners would design a White House staff that is 25 per cent smaller than the existing one, in accordance with one of Mr. Clinton's campaign promises.

Mr. Jordan said Mr. Clinton could move quickly to lift the Bush administration's "gag order" on abortion, counselling and restrictions on fetal-tissue research.

Meanwhile Sen. Gore harbours high hopes that his new job will be a "partnership," not a dead end.

No one is more invested in President-Elect Clinton's promise of an alliance to change America than is Vice President-Elect Gore, who desperately wants a substantive role in the new administration.

In his victory speech last week, Clinton promised: "We're going to do our best to give you a new partnership for a new America."

The expectation of that partnership was a major attraction for the 44-year-old Gore.

"I'm not especially enamored of the job of vice president as it has traditionally been carried out," said Sen. Gore, who is giving up a senate seat from Tennessee. "But both of us have an understanding of how we can work together well and I can help him."

Sen. Gore brings extensive inside knowledge of how Washington works from his 16 years in the House and Senate. In addition, he has highly regarded expertise in arms control, the environment and high-technology.

Sen. Gore, who grew up in Washington as the son of a senator, sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988. But he dropped out after a series of primary losses and chose not to run this year, citing his son's long recovery from a near-fatal accident in April 1989.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Sen. Gore said

he accepted Mr. Clinton's offer to join the Democratic ticket because he believed he could improve the Arkansas governor's chances of winning, and because "everything I care about would be better off in a Clinton-Gore administration and worse off in a Bush-Quayle administration."

So far, there has been no word on Sen. Gore's role in the new administration.

Historically, vice presidents have spent much of their time campaigning for congressional candidates, doing political work for the president or carrying out ceremonial duties, such as attending funerals.

"It's up to the president" to break from that tradition, said Walter Mondale, who is credited with redefining the office when he served under Jimmy Carter.

"From everything I can tell, the relationship between Clinton and Gore is excellent, and that's a good start."

Vice President Dan Quayle

heads the White House Council on Competitiveness, which looks critically at the effect of government regulations on business and industry, and the Space Council, which oversees the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

But such jobs are "probably less important than giving advice across the board," said Erwin Hargrove, a Vanderbilt University political scientist.

Some areas seen natural assignments for Sen. Gore: The environment, a subject on which he has written a best-selling book; technology, an area on which he has focused in the Senate; and arms control.

But it also would seem logical for Sen. Gore to represent the new administration on Capitol Hill.

"I think the fact that he's had experience up there helps a lot," said Mr. Mondale. "He knows the institution. If he seems to be close to the president, people will deal with him."



### Kids warned: satchels can stunt your growth

KUWAIT (R) — On primary schools in Kuwait up to five kilograms of their satchels and the could stunt their growth, research, based on a study of 800 schoolchildren, was out by a branch of the Education. "Special development believe that this weight every day on the growth of the child, especially if it is not carry," said a synopsis of the official Kuwait News (KUNA).

### 'Robodoc' taken in first operation

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A robot has taken surgery for the first in the United States, doctors ramento hospital said. The robot named "Robodoc" part in a successful operation to replace a patient's hip, it, al said in a statement. "Robodoc" — a seven foot high robot with a drill formed part of the surgery close-tolerance in femur to anchor an joint. The drill was a computerised medical equipment.

### Martin Luther King notes auction

LOS ANGELES (R) — Notes written by Martin Luther King Jr. for a historic speech were auctioned \$35,000 despite a \$5 bid suit by his heirs alleging the documents were stolen. A Ne manuscript company on the winner after intense late Saturday for the 2 speech outline, but it is able to collect its prize. Angeles Judge rules it. "We will not deliver a ment or accept payment until that issue has solved," said another Goldberg.

### Clinton gets his voice back, ask for a Big Mac

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — President-Elect Bill Clinton got his voice back Sunday, he talked so long that he had to scratch the fence of the governor's to be on time for Clinton had been nearly since his Tuesday night speech but, relaxed and after a Sunday morning stopped at the local Mc to talk with patrons. "All people come here, expecting the week. You know conversations with bankness people, state or homeless people...you see a whole slice of the life."

### Basque music rocks on...and on, and on

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — 19-year-old rock music Bilbao claimed a place Guinness Book of Records for improvising on the piano non-stop, the Pamplona Youth Centre Saturday. He said Molero, architecture member of the Bilbao Night, played improvisations on five of his own. The young Basque seven and composing undertook the improvisation as a tribute to people who play music streets.

### Singapore litter face compulsion clean-up

SINGAPORE (R) — At 30 litterbugs a month in clean Singapore are like punished with compulsion labour, a senior official said. Singapore's Times newspaper said quoted Public Health sioner Daniel Wang as saying judging from the number of litterbugs, a regular about 30 was expected out "corrective work" every month. Singapore prides itself on its cleanliness, introduced a law this year quashing those caught in public places to perform three hours of community work.

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